

O Almighty and Eternal God, in this season of Advent and Expectancy, we are newly aware of thy love. As we gather to worship we know over again that thou art our Father, and we - thy children. Guide us now as we pray, that our prayers may reflect thy presence - thy will for us.
Let us, each one, give thanks

O thou who art our creator and sustainer, we thank thee for all thou hast done for us; For the goodness of the world and all that is therein; For a natural order so created to give us food and shelter and comfort; For health, for minds and bodies; For the privilege of living in a land of freedom and liberty; for all this we give thee thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for the Church, and for this congregation

Our Father we pray for thy Holy Universal Church. Give unto it thy gifts of courage and wisdom that the word it speaks may be firm and winsome. We are grateful, O Lord, for what thou hast made possible for us in this ~~community~~ ^{cong.}. We pray for the continued prodding of the Holy Spirit - that we may affectively serve thee and our community, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for peace

O Eternal God, as we once again celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, we confess our inability to establish peace and good will among men - even in our own community. We pray for a world in strife: we pray for victims of hatred and war in Vietnam, ~~in the Congo~~; we pray for those who are enslaved by the ambitions of their Fellowmen; we pray for those who are the objects of bigotry and prejudice. As our Lord has taught us, we pray for our enemies, ~~asking~~ ^{beseeching} thy healing and restoring grace upon them, through J.C. our Lord.

Let us pray for the sick, the bereaved, the lonely and depressed.

O thou God of love we pray for those of our own number who need thee on this day. Be with those who are ill. Be with the ^{young & Vanderworks} ~~Heavenly~~ ~~the Magpies~~ ~~and the Smittes~~ as they grieve, giving them the assurance of thy never-ending love.

All this we bring to thee in the name of Lord Jesus Christ - near us now as we pray as he taught us saying: